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Town Topics

WE NOMINATE

John Francis Becker, 33-year old Iowa-bred Princetonian who as co-author and director of the current Community Players' production, "Hasten The Day," has endowed "Princeton Theater" with a new kind of vitality. Described by the American National Theater and Academy as "one of the most exciting plays we have ever received," the original three-act drama is reminiscent of the day when the stage, one of the incubators of American thought, was infinitely more than the Mecca of profit-loving "angels" of Broadway columnist fame.

While "Hasten The Day," in which Becker and a former radio associate, Allan Sloane, invested two years of thought and sweat, skillfully leads Abolitionist John Brown to his doom in the Virginia of 1859, it is in many respects as much a part of the modern scene as radio and the motion picture. With a striking narrating chorus, with some of the haunting qualities of Stephen Vincent Benet's "John Brown's Body," the Players' vehicle derives its punch and pace from the radio and dramatic experience Becker has packed into the past 15 years.

The son of a Dubuque physician, Becker whirled through tiny Columbia College (Iowa) in three years and jumped to Columbia (Eisenhower) University for his master's degree in journalism. In the fall of 1938 he was a C.B.S. office-boy, one of whose responsibilities was checking the epic Lone Ranger program on the time allotted to commercials. Shortly after the war he was the youngest of the seven radio directors singled out by Variety as the "men who had done most to advance radio during the year."

Now serving as Assistant Director of the Radio-Movie-Television Department of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Becker for a man his age has compiled a startling record. His leading wartime show, "Transatlantic Call," was the only sustaining program to make the "ten best of the year" listing. He shifted over to the C.B.S. Documentary Unit and was charged with network "prestige shows," devoted to surveying social problems such as the nation's medical service. In one hectic period he was directing 11 radio shows a week, from soap operas to soap-boxing labor presentations.

For breaking with the tradition of tailor-made McCarter plays and coming forth with something of, by and for Princetonians; for demonstrating to others with similar aspirations that "it" can be done; for making a definite contribution to Princeton community life; he is TOWN TOPICS' nominee for

PRINCETON'S
MAN OF THE WEEK
February 13-19, 1949

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Town Topics

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Vol. III. No. 49 February 13-19, 1949

Topics of the Town

They Knew What They Wanted. As was the case with the national election last Fall—and the township school referendum in the same month — the people who cared the most won. Tuesday night, the Township faction that sought either to sidetrack consolidation or to defeat it entirely, did a better job of getting out the vote, placed all four of its candidates in office. As was fitting, board president Myron E. LaVake Jr. topped the slate of nine with 471 votes, followed by Mrs. Margaret A. Bradley, 448; Rudolf A. Clemen (for a two-year term), 434; and LeBaron R. Foster, 413.

Their margins, ranging from 28 to 96 votes, stemmed wholly from the first district—the northeastern sector of the municipality and the only one where they held a majority. But it was enough.

Princeton borough saw three men (Irving W. Mershon and Cyrus C. Young Jr., incumbents and newcomer Roger J. O'Kane) win the three-year terms. District clerk Mershon topped the balloting, as had been expected, with 847; Mr. Young polled 582, Mr. O'Kane 485. Mrs. Katherine H. Reed placed fourth with 366 and Dessa M. Skinner, with 332, was fifth. Datus C. Smith, Jr., only one of 17 candidates in the two districts to run unopposed, was named to fill an unexpired two-year term.

In Trenton next Monday, Mercer County's Senator Wesley Armstrong is scheduled to introduce a bill making creation of a board of estimate when two school districts consolidate optional instead of mandatory. Although it was generally agreed before the election that if enacted this would make a merger of the two districts desirable, today, consolidation seems a year further away. It also seems just as inevitable.

Rough Meeting. Sunday morning about 10:30, Albert E. McVitty, Jr. of Edgerstoune was driving through Linden toward Princeton on Route 1. Another car, proceeding in the opposite direction with Harry Hurvitz of 42 Jefferson Road at the wheel, jumped the concrete center island, Mr. McVitty told police. A head-on collision followed. Mr. McVitty has possible fractured ribs; Nat Wolman of 32 Jefferson Road, who was thrown out of Mr. Hurvitz' car, is in an Elizabeth hospital with a broken back.

Miscellany. Presence of a cash surplus accumulated over a period of years, an increase in ratables and operation of the school budget henceforth on a calendar year basis have combined to hold the Township tax rate down to $3.98, a 42-point increase in contrast to the 75 or 80-point jump that had been expected.

Applications will be received until February 24 at the post office

—Continued on Page 6

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"Mixer" is actually just another way of saying "mix-and-match," which is what these outfits are designed for. Basically they consist of three pieces: blouse, sunsuit and skirt. In action they can be used for six different purposes: the blouse can be worn with whatever you wish; ditto the skirt; sunsuit can be used alone; sunsuit and blouses together protect tender shoulders; sunsuit and skirt provide a pinafore effect or a bit more respectability when you rush your playing child down town; blouse and skirt alone unite to make an entire dress.

The whole idea, conceived and executed by three mothers (one the head of The Exchange, the others a talented combination of professional designing experience and unusual sewing ability) has unlimited possibilities. You will see some of them on hand; you can dream up others yourself or leave it to the makers. Contrasting solids, stripes, prints or checks with solids; blouses with round necks and puff sleeves, or with Peter Pan collars and straight sleeves; elastic-waisted or sash-tied skirts; applique, smocking, monogramming, rick-rack—all of these variations can be combined in any way that appeals to you or becomes your child. Although fundamentally similar in design, no two need look alike.

There's method in our apparent madness when we tell you about summer outfits in mid-February, aside from the fact that it cheers

—Continued on Page 7

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Sports in Short

Fast Freshman. A decade ago, barrel-chested Dick Hough swam the 200-yard breaststroke for Princeton in 2:22, establishing a new world's record. Last Saturday night, Freshman Bob Brawner clipped more than two seconds off this time when he was clocked in 2:19.6 for a new Princeton mark. Joe Verdeur of LaSalle (who appeared here in the dedication meet last December) has shaved the world's record down to 2:14 since Hough's day. Howie Stepp thinks Brawner may do some paring of his own on Verdeur's time before he's through at Old Nassau.

Frankness rather than lack of the proper spirit dictates adoption of the "wait-'til-next-year" slogan for the Orange and Black basketball team. The Lavelli-paced Yale quintet, victor over every league entry save tail-end Harvard which it has yet to meet, is too hot for contemporary opposition.

Swamped at New Haven by Lavelli's point-a-minute firing, the Tigers will have one more shot at the Blue here on Washington's Birthday. But they'll be without Mike Kearns, who has been declared ineligible, and there's no clear indication that they'll get by Cornell and Dartmouth away from home before that time. Next year, however, Kearns should be back, Lavelli will be gone and Princeton loses only Bill Kelly from its squad of regulars.

Whatever else it does this season, Dick Vaughan's hockey team can think of the Clarkson game with satisfaction. Minus four key players (Weeden, Callanan, Ryerson and Bernard), the Tiger skaters outplayed the faster Clarkson six throughout, leading 3-0 after one period and 5-0 midway through the second.

The 7-3 triumph over the New Yorkers, who had won four straight, including games from Army and Boston College, was followed by a 7-1 defeat at the hands of the St. Nicks. It's Dartmouth at Hanover Saturday. Next week, there are no major sport contests here until Harvard's hockey team plays in Baker Rink Saturday afternoon.

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News of the Theatres

THE McCARTER

Hasten the Day (Fri., Sat.) may well rank as one of the Community Players' outstanding productions in their 15-year history. A drama written by John Becker and Allan Sloane and set to music by Sanders Maxwell, it unfolds the bitter struggle of abolitionist John Brown to free the slaves. Advance indications from final rehearsals are that the play is a promise of an evening of unusual theatrical entertainment. The cast includes Thomas Potter, LeMoyne Smith, William H. Snow, Bettina Burbidge, George Cooke, Jr., John Gaston, Herbert McAneny, Henry Ross, A. Munroe Wade.

FRICK AUDITORIUM

The Story of Gosta Berling (Fri., 8 p. m.), Greta Garbo's first full-length film, was made a quarter-century ago in Sweden. Romantic in plot, it pays considerable attention to character portrayals, lighting and photographic techniques that were new at the time. A Group Arts classic.

THE PLAYHOUSE

The Man from Colorado (Thurs., Fri., Sat.), a picturesque Western in Technicolor, tells what happens when Glenn Ford continues to kill after the Civil War ends. William Holden and Ellen Drew finally even the score in a film that generally holds the interest.

Enchantment (Sun. thru Wed.) is set in war-time London but deals heavily in flashbacks to the '90's as David Niven relates the pathos-filled story of his shattered romance with Teresa Wright. Good acting, an even blend of gentle humor and deep sentiment combine to unfold a story that most audiences will love.

Act of Violence (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) tells of an ex-bomber pilot (Van Heflin) who is hunted by another member of his crew (Robert Ryan) for having betrayed a group of fellow prisoners to gain favor with the Germans. Most of the picture is a dramatic, fast-moving chase.

THE GARDEN

Station West (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) portrays Dick Powell in pursuit of gold-hunting bandits in the West of 70 years ago. Burl Ives sings in a satisfactory adventure yarn.

The Philadelphia Story (Mon., Tues., Wed.), a pre-war comedy with Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, James Stewart, ranked as one of the most amusing pieces of

— Continued on Page 7

Dr. Nathan Kasrel

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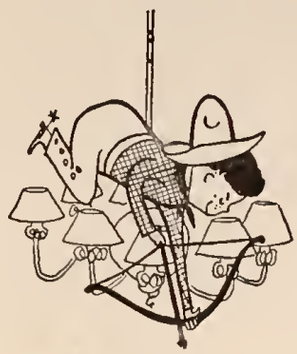

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Sun. - Wed. Feb. 13 - 16
'ENCHANTMENT'
David Niven - Teresa Wright
Thurs. - Sat. Feb. 17 - 19
'Act of Violence'
Van Heflin - Janet Leigh

GARDEN
Thurs. - Sat. Feb. 10-12
'STATION WEST'
Dick Powell - Jane Greer
Mon. - Wed. Feb. 14 - 16
'Philadelphia Story'
Cary Grant - Katherine Hepburn
Thurs. - Sat. Feb. 17 - 19
'The Boy with Green Hair'
Pat O'Brien - Dean Stockwell

TOPICS OF THE TOWN

- Continued from Page 2

from those wishing to take examinations for positions as clerk-carrier . . . the job pays $1.29 an hour . . . the Eagles Lodge, which lays claim to being the largest civic organization in town, will give a dance Saturday night at Avalon . . . tickets, ($1 stag, $2 couple) are available to all.

A Beaver College girl sustained a broken collar bone Sunday afternoon when she sought to board the moving P.J.&B. at the station, lost her balance and was dragged for 30 feet between train and platform . . . Edward B. Snook of 31 Hawthorne Avenue had the double misfortune last weekend of cracking his jawbone while eating oysters . . . not on a pearl but on an oyster cracker.

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Fashion Topics

This is a new corner on clothes with your girl Friday reporting monthly on topics of the town (fashion-wise) . . . culled from those three experts on ways to make you look wonderful — Bert-Ann, Ludi and Mary Gill. For those of you new to Princeton — the source of all this fashion know-how is the Fashion Center, 230 Nassau Street. Now for the what's new department.

Mary Gill has the answer to every down-South traveler's plea for clothes that can stand the crush of air travel and come up looking like something less wilted than a left-over Chef's salad. It's a whole new collection of cotton mesh dresses—most of them shirtwaisty—in the most complete colorscope this reporter's seen short of a pousse cafe. You have your choice of a wonderful minty green . . . a cream of white shade that's delicious, spiced with the new cinnamon browns . . . a deep purple . . . buttery yellow . . . pinky coral — plus (my favorite) a pale pearly grey that not only gets you where you're going but does interesting things to a tan once you're there. These dresses (the manufacturer calls them Pakables) can be had for $39.95.

Bert-Ann (lingerie and accessories) and Ludi (hats)—not to be outdone—have assembled the hats and bags to go with these dresses. Done up by Betmar (a name known to fame for the kind of casual little hats that you don't have to be a hat type to wear), they exactly match the dresses in fabric and color. You may choose between two hat styles—the almost universally becoming cloche and, newer yet, a tiny twist of turban that sits calot fashion back on the head. The bags are of the drawstring variety and pack flat as does all the headgear. The price for all this custom-look luxury: $12 (tax included) and $8.95 for the bag and hat respectively.

To carry this coordinated collection further, Bert-Ann has an interesting new fashion slant on her exclusive line of Peg Malloy nylons —a set of six new hosiery shadings she calls "color keys" to correlate with the whole packable idea for further costume harmony. You have your choice of several shades in each one of the key ranges.

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CHOICE MEATS

Freshly Gound Beef .....43c lb.
Pork Chops (Rib End) .....49c lb.
Short Ribs of Beef .....31c lb.
Chuck Roast (Bone in).....49c lb.
Dried Beef .....¼ lb. 35c
Pork Roll .....½ lb. 35c
Shank or Butt End Hams, 55c lb.
Ham Slices .....89c lb.
Swift's Premium Bacon 69c lb.
Oleomargarine (Allsweet) .....32c lb.

★

GROCERIES

Canada Dry Ginger Ale 2 lg. bottles . 33c & deposit
Pink Salmon (16-oz. can) . . 59c
Pure Lard (Swift) .....18c lb.
Campbell's Soups (Tomato) .....3 for 32c
Tenderleaf Instant Tea, 39c jar
Sell's Liver Pate' 10c
Maxwell House Coffee .....55c lb.
Floor Wax (Pint) 25c
Ritter's Asparagus Soup (Excellent Buy) .....5c can
Glass Wax (Pint) 39c

★

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Green Peppers .....3 for 10c
New Potatoes .....3 lbs. 29c
Fresh Kale .....2 lbs. 19c
Snow Crop Frosted Peas .....2 pkgs. 49c
Canadian Turnips .....3 lbs. 19c
Yellow Onnions .....3 lbs. 14c
Cabbage (New) .....5c lb.
Pink Grapefruit .....4 for 25c
MacIntosh Apples .....2 lbs. 29c
Fresh Green Beans .....19c lb.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

IT'S NEW TO US

—Continued from Page 3

us and, we hope, you to mention that spring, at least on the calendar, is not really far away. But the real reason is that if the "Mixers" prove as popular as we think they will, early ordering will assure arrival by the first hot day.

Clip-on Key Rings. It would mean disaster to this column if the idea girls and boys ever run out of them; but as long as particularly clever ones, such as the clip-on key rings at the Cummins Shop (96 Nassau) pop up, we can rest easy.

To be specific, they are gold-plated rings made for holding keys, with a meshed chain effect connecting the ring to an extremely hard-gripping clip. Said clip can be attached to any inside part of a woman's pocketbook which is clip-able (i.e., mirror pocket); the keys put on the ring; and from that time on all of the typical feminine purse-rummaging is a thing of the past as far as keys are concerned.

It's a useful gadget (which is more than can be said for lots of things which are so defined), an inexpensive one at $1, and a good one (male) if you're Valentine-minded or (female) interested in saving many wasted and irritating minutes.

Compact-Lipstick Combine. We're still on the subject of simplifying the existence of the normal woman (we also have possible Valentines

—Continued on Page 8

Special Offer!

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NEWS OF THE THEATRES

—Continued from Page 5

its era, still draws frequent laughter.

The Boy with Green Hair (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) is a "message movie" that preaches against both war and intolerance. Seeking also to entertain, it blends in fantasy about a war orphan (Dean Stockwell), adopted by a singing waiter (Pat O'Brien). Overnight, the youngster's hair turns green and his intolerant fellows will have none of him. Unreality and insincerity are the basic impressions.

SEE IT BEFORE IT HITS NEW YORK!

All over town interest is running high in "Hasten the Day," the Community Players' new and unusual production. The American National Theater and Academy has ALREADY recommended it for presentation throughout the United States. It's at the McCarter this weekend — Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p. m. Tickets at Skirm's, the University Store, the box office.

SEE IT BEFORE IT'S A NEW YORK HIT!

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Calendar of the Week

Saturday, Febroary 12th

4:00 p.m.: Wrestling: Princeton vs. Navy, Dillon Gymnasium.

8:00 p.m.: Swimming: Princeton vs. Army, Dillon Gym Pool.

8:00-10:00 p.m.: Public Skating, Baker Rink.

Sunday, Febroary 13th

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's R. C. Church.

10:30 a.m.: "Why a Christian Pastor Must Regularly Preach the Gospel," Rev. Mr. Milton J. Nauss; Lutheran Service; Westminster Chapel.

11:00 a.m.: University Preacher, Dean Donald B. Aldrich; University Chapel.

"They Laid Him on His Cross," Rev. Mr. Lynn H. Corson; Methodist Church.

"Danger Ahead," Rev. Mr. William T. Parker; First Baptist Church.

Sermon, Rev. Dr. John V. Butler; Trinity Episcopal Church.

"Soul," Lesson-Sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

"Cooperation or Competition," Rev. Dr. Frank S. Niles; First Church.

Sermon, Rev. Dr. William L. Tucker; Second Church.

"Must We Hasten the Day?," Rev. Mr. Benjamin J. Anderson; Witherspoon Presbyterian Church.

3:30 p.m.: Concert, Elizabethan Madrigals and Ayres; sponsorship, Friends of Princeton Music; Proctor Hall, Graduate College.

8:00 p.m.: J. S. Bach's "Mass in F," Westminster Chapel Choir; First Church.

"Everything Will Be All Right," Rev. Mr. Anderson; Witherspoon Church. Fellowship Service; speaker, Rev. Mr. Charles F. Mayhew, Trenton; First Baptist Church.

8:00-10:00 p.m.: Public Skating, Baker Rink.

8:15 p.m.: Evening Service; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Monday, Febroary 14th

8:00 p.m.: Annual Meeting, Princeton Community Chest; Borough Hall.

Tuesday, Febroary 15th

Deadline for motorists' retention of 1948 automobile-plate numbers. Motor Vehicle Agency, 354 Nassau St.

Wednesday, February 16th

6:00 p.m.: Fifth Session, University of Life; Methodist Church.

8:00 p.m.: Swimming: Princeton vs. Lafayette; Dillon Gym Pool.

Annual Meeting, Waldensian Aid Society; speaker, Mrs. Merle Frampton; First Church.

"The Heart of the Matter," Rev. Mr. Anderson; Witherspoon Street Church.

Thursday, Febroary 17th

7:00 p.m.: Y.M.C.A. Father and Son Evening, "Modern Black Magic," C. H. Hoyler; First Presbyterian Church.

Friday, Febroary 18th

8:00 p.m.: Public Budget Hearing, Borough Council; Borough Hall.

IT'S NEW TO US

— Continued from Page 7

still on our mind.) This time it's a Volupte creation — one of their typically good-looking compacts combined with lipstick holder into one convenient case.

The case which holds, and protects, the compact is made of felt-lined black moire, and has an attached piece which keeps the lipstick securely in place. There are two styles in the gold compacts, one a square shell-like design ($5.50), the other a quilted effect ($5). Both are striking and attractive. Once again, the combine saves purse-excavating—we don't like the idea of being repetitious, but on the other hand, no amount of that kind of saving is too much, is it? They're at Lavake's, 54 Nassau Street.

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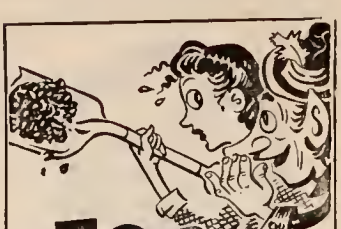
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